Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 175009

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CA, UN

SUBJECT: CANADIAN REQUEST TO POSTPONE UN CRIME PREVENTION CONGRESS

REF: A) OTTAWA 2926; B) OTTAWA 2713; C) USUN 3426; D) USUN 3420

1. CANADIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR FRASER CALLED ON DEPT OFFICER (BAKER, IO) JULY 23 TO AMPLIFY MACEACHEN'S STATEMENT REQUESTING POSTPONEMENT OF TORONTO CRIME PREVENTION CONGRESS REPORTED REFTEL B. FRASER INSTRUCTED BY HIS GOVERNMENT TO MAKE CLEAR THAT CANADA WAS SEEKING A POSTPONEMENT, NOT A CANCELLATION, OF THE CONGRESS, AND THAT THE GOC WANTS THE CONGRESS EVENTUALLY TO TAKE PLACE IN TORONTO WHEN THE CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES MILITATING AGAINST A SUCCESSFUL MEETING IN SEPTEMBER ARE CLEARED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 STATE 175009

UP. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD QUESTION OF POSTPONEMENT

WOULD COME UP AT UN COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES JULY 25 AND HOPED THAT US WOULD UNDERSTAND AND SUPPORT GOC'S REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT.

2. FRASER REFERRED REPEATEDLY TO MACEACHEN'S STATEMENT AS DESCRIBING THE LARGE OVERALL CONTEXT IN WHICH GOC DECISION TAKEN. BESIDES PREDICTABLE DIFFICULTIES OVER PLO PRESENCE, THERE WAS, AS AT MEXICO CITY WCIWY, PATTERN

OF INTRODUCING EXTRANEOUS ISSUES HAVING NOTHING TO DO WITH SUBJECT MATTER OF CONFERENCE THAT GOC WISHED TO AVOID. MOREOVER, HE WENT ON, COINCIDENCE OF TORONTO CONGRESS AND SPECIAL SESSION RAISED POSSIBILITY THAT THERE WOULD BE SOME SPILL-OVER IN TORONTO OF CONTENTIOUS ATMOSPHERE LIKELY TO DOMINATE SPECIAL SESSION. HOWEVER, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, FRASER CONCEDED, THE ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM AND THE PRESENCE OF THE PLO WERE THE KEY FACTORS IN THE GOC DECISION. GOC ANXIOUS TO AVOID ANY TROUBLE ON THIS FRONT WHILE DELICATE MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY. THEY COULD NOT, FOR EXAMPLE, RULE OUT POSSIBILITY OF ISRAELI CREDENTIALS CHALLENGE AT TORONTO, ALTHOUGH GOC HAD NO EVIDENCE THAT SUCH A MOVE WAS ACTUALLY IN THE WIND.

- 3. FRASER SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH MACEACHEN HAD NOT DISCUSSED IN PARLIAMENT ADMISSIBILITY OF PLO OBSERVERS TO CANADA, IN REPLY TO PRESS QUERY HE HAD SAID THAT GOC WAS PREPARED TO ADMIT PLO OBSERVERS TO CONGRESS SO LONG AS THEY WERE INVITED BY THE UN OR AN APPROPRIATE CANADIAN ORGANIZATION AND PROVIDED THAT THEY WERE NOT KNOWN TERRORISTS OR AFFILIATED WITH TERRORIST GROUPS.
- 4. FRASER ALSO ALLUDED TO MACEACHEN'S PLAN TO CONSULT WITH INTERESTED COUNTRIES ON GROUND RULES FOR UN MEETINGS OF A SPECIALIZED OR TECHNICAL NATURE. HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW SPECIFICALLY WHAT MACEACHEN HAD IN MIND BEYOND HIS STATED INTENTION TO DEVELOP A RESOLUTION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE GA. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONING, FRASER INDICATED THAT CANADA WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 175009

NOT WISH TO HOST CONFERENCE UNTIL (1) PROGRESS ON ARABISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS HAD PRODUCED REDUCTION OF PRESSURE ON ISRAEL, (2) MOVE TO SUSPEND OR EXPEL ISRAEL FROM UN OR GA HAD BEEN EITHER WITHDRAWN OR DEFEATED, (3) UNGA HAD PRODUCED SOME DIMINUTION OF POLITICIZATION OF TECHNICAL CONFERENCES. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, PLO OBSERVERS COULD, FRASER THOUGHT, BE MANAGED.

5. BAKER RESPONDED THAT WE COULD UNDERSTAND REASONING BEHIND GOC DECISION AND COULD SEE NO PROBLEM IN SUPPORTING POSTPONEMENT. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT USG COULD NOT COMMIT ITSELF IN ADVANCE TO SUPPORT OF GOC JUDGMENT AS TO WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES MIGHT WARRANT RESCHEDULING THE CONGRESS, SINCE SUCH JUDGMENTS OBVIOUSLY COULD DIFFER. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GOC WOULD CONSULT WITH USG ON ANY RESOLUTION IT MAY INTRODUCE ON GROUND RULES FOR UN TECHNICAL CONFERENCES

AS WE WOULD HAVE STRONG INTEREST IN THIS MATTER. BAKER ALSO TOOK OCCASION TO ENUMERATE SEVERAL ISSUES WHERE WE WOULD WELCOME CANADIAN SUPPORT, NOTABLY IN FENDING OFF MOVES TO SUSPEND OR EXPEL ISRAEL FROM GA AND OTHER UN BODIES OR WITHHOLD THEIR INVITATION TO MEETINGS (INCLUDING VANCOUVER HABITAT MEETING) REMARKING THAT WE HAD SOUGHT MORE ACTIVE CANADIAN INVOLVEMENT AT ECLA HABITAT MEETING PRECISELY TO AVOID TYPE OF AWKWARD SITUATION AT HABITAT OTTAWA WAS NOW FACING ON TORONTO CONGRESS. (FRASER WAS GIVEN MEMORANDUM ON U.S. POSITION ON LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SUSPENSION OF A UN MEMBER STATE BEING REPEATED TO POSTS.) BAKER ALSO URGED THAT CANADA, AS CO-SPONSOR ON KOREAN RESOLUTION, INSTRUCT ITS OVERSEAS POSTS TO JOIN ACTIVELY WITH US IN SEEKING MORE CO-SPONSORS AND SUPPORT.

- 6. FRASER REPLIED GOC POSITION SUPPORTING ISRAEL ALREADY WELL-KNOWN AND HAD BEEN REITERATED IN MACEACHEN'S STATEMENT. HE ADDED GOC ALREADY LISTED AS CO-SPONSOR OF KOREAN RESOLUTION.
- 7. FOR USUN. U.S. REP IN COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES SHOULD STATE THAT U.S. UNDERSTANDS THE REASONS FOR CANADIAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 STATE 175009

REQUEST AND IS PREPARED TO SUPPORT THAT REQUEST. IF, HOWEVER, SECRETARIAT PUTS FORWARD PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVE, ACCEPTABLE TO MAJORITY OF COMMITTEE, TO HOLD CONGRESS IN GENEVA SEPT 1-12, U.S. REP SHOULD JOIN MAJORITY AND AGREE TO CHANGE OF VENUE TO GENEVA.

8. BELGIUM EMBASSY HAS ASKED DEPT ABOUT DEVELOPING COMMON WEO APPROACH TO QUESTION OF POSTPONEMENT. WE PLAN RESPOND ALONG LINES OF PRECEDING PARAGRAPH. USUN SHOULD DO THE SAME WITH BELGIUM UN MISSION. USUN SHOULD ALSO ASK SECRETARIAT BEFORE COMMITTEE MEETING IF TRANSFER OF VENUE TO GENEVA IS A WORKABLE ALTERNATIVE, INDICATING, IF APPROPRIATE, U.S. WOULD NOT OBJECT TO SUCH A MOVE.

9. FYI: CANADIAN EMBASSY HERE TELLS US, AFTER CHECKING WITH OTTAWA, THAT GOC WOULD GREATLY REGRET THAT CONGRESS NOT TO BE EVENTUALLY HELD IN TORONTO, BUT WOULD NOT RAISE SERIOUS OBJECTION TO SWITCH TO GENEVA AND WOULD PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN CONGRESS THERE. END FYI.

10. DEPT UNABLE CLEAR ABOVE POSITION WITH DEL CHIEF DEP. ATTORNEY GENERAL TYLER WHO IS IN TRAVEL STATUS AND CANNOT BE REACHED UNTIL AFTER COMMITTEE MEETS. KISSINGER

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